SUPERMAN
DC
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BAT MAN
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MAY
NO. 147
THE STORY OF THE YEAR!
"BATMAN BECOMES BAT-BABY!"
LOOK OUT! IT-- IT'S BAT-BABY AND ROBIN!

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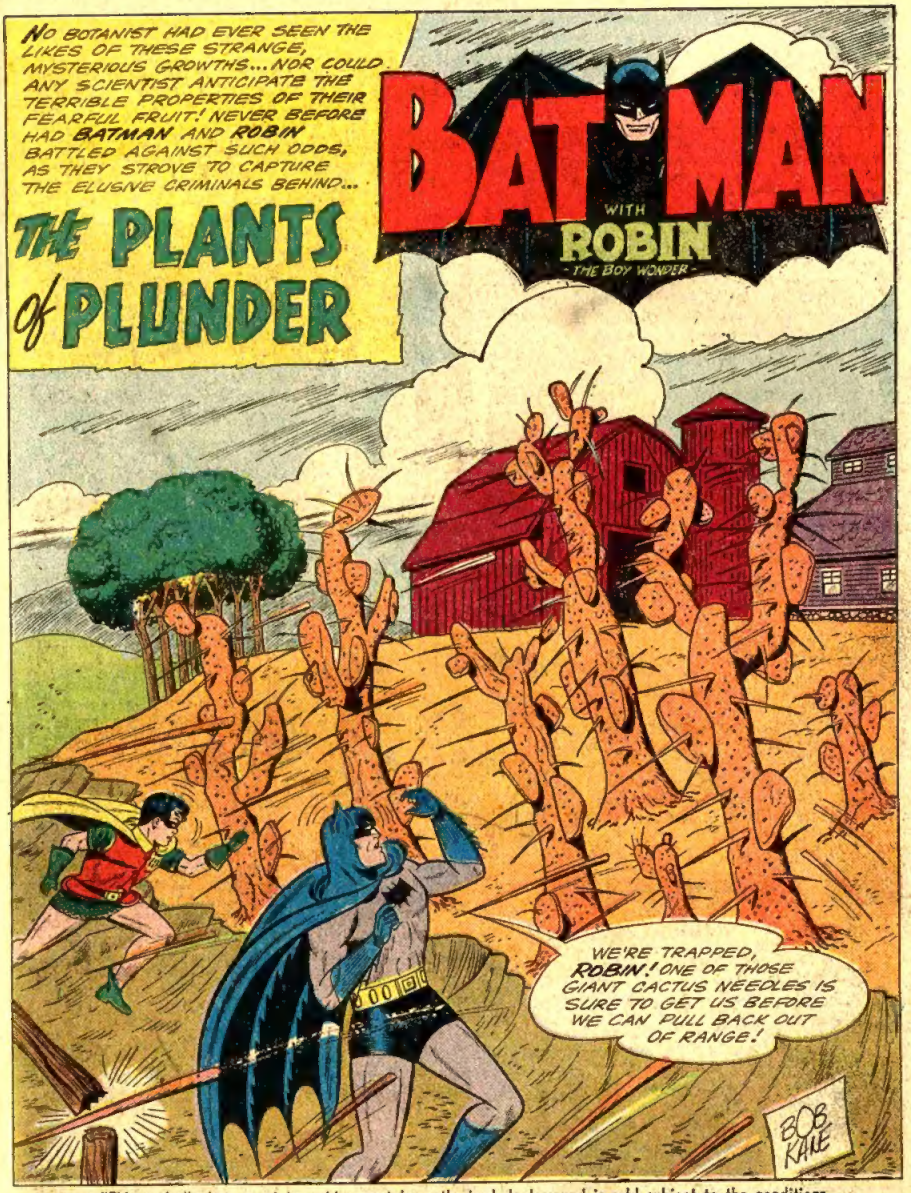
NO BOTANIST HAD EVER SEEN THE LIKES OF THESE STRANGE, MYSTERIOUS GROWTHS... NOR COULD ANY SCIENTIST ANTICIPATE THE TERRIBLE PROPERTIES OF THEIR FEARFUL FRUIT! NEVER BEFORE HAD BATMAN AND ROBIN BATTLED AGAINST SUCH ODDS, AS THEY STROVE TO CAPTURE THE ELUSIVE CRIMINALS BEHIND...
THE PLANTS of PLUNDER
BATMAN
WITH
ROBIN
- THE BOY WONDER -
WE'RE TRAPPED, ROBIN! ONE OF THOSE GIANT CACTUS NEEDLES IS SURE TO GET US BEFORE WE CAN PULL BACK OUT OF RANGE!
BOB KANE

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A STARTLING SIGHT GREETS BATMAN AND ROBIN, ONE NIGHT, AS THEY PATROL GOTHAM CITY...
SMOKE COMING FROM THE BUILDING OF ORIENTAL JEWEL IMPORTERS... AND BANDITS IN ASBESTOS SUITS RUSHING OUT!
BUT AS THEY INTERCEPT THE FLEEING FIGURES...
HELP! H-E-L-P!
OH-OH... SOMEONE TRAPPED INSIDE THE BUILDING!
FORCED TO ABANDON THE FIGHT, THE PAIR RUSHES INSIDE, WHERE...
H-HELP ME! THE HEAT... IT'S MORE THAN I CAN STAND!
THE WATCHMAN... HAVE TO GET HIM OUT FAST! THIS PLACE IS LIKE AN OVEN!
LATER, AFTER POLICE AND FIREMEN ARRIVE...
FEEL BETTER NOW? TELL ME--HOW'D THOSE CROOKS CRACK THE VAULT?
WITH HEAT, THEY MELTED IT!
"I WAS COMING OUT AFTER MAKING A ROUTINE CHECK WHEN THEY GRABBED ME..."
YOU'RE WASTING YOUR TIME! THAT VAULT WILL TAKE HOURS TO CRACK WITHOUT A BLOWTORCH!
IT WON'T BE, ONCE THE SEEDS HE'S DROPPING INTO THAT POT GET GOING!
"AND THEN, RIGHT BEFORE MY EYES..."
JEHOSEPHAT! SOME CRAZY THING IS GROWING OUT OF THE POT--PUSHING THE WHOLE PALM TREE OUT BY THE ROOTS! S-SOME KIND OF UNBELIEVABLE PLANT... B-BUT WHAT'S IT FOR?

"IN MERE SECONDS, THE PLANT BEGAN SENDING OUT WAVES OF HEAT THAT BUCKLED THE STEEL DOORS OF THE VAULT!"

:GULP! N-NOW I SEE WHY THOSE BANDITS ARE WEARING ASBESTOS SUITS!

FOLLOWING THE WATCHMAN'S AMAZING STORY, **BATMAN** AND THE POLICE EXAMINE THE VAULT MORE CLOSELY...

HMM... NOTHING BUT BLACKENED DIRT LEFT IN THIS POT--AND, ON THE FLOOR HERE, **SEEDS**... BUT OF A KIND I'VE NEVER SEEN BEFORE! THAT FIGURES--SINCE THEY PRODUCED A **PLANT** NEVER SEEN BEFORE!

LATER, IN THE **BAT-CAVE CRIME LAB**...

IT'S NO USE, **ROBIN**--WE'VE TRIED WATER AND FERTILIZERS OF EVERY SORT--BUT WE CAN'T GET THOSE SEEDS TO SPROUT! WE'RE STYMIED FOR NOW... BUT I'M SURE WE'LL BE HEARING FROM THOSE PLANT BANDITS AGAIN!.

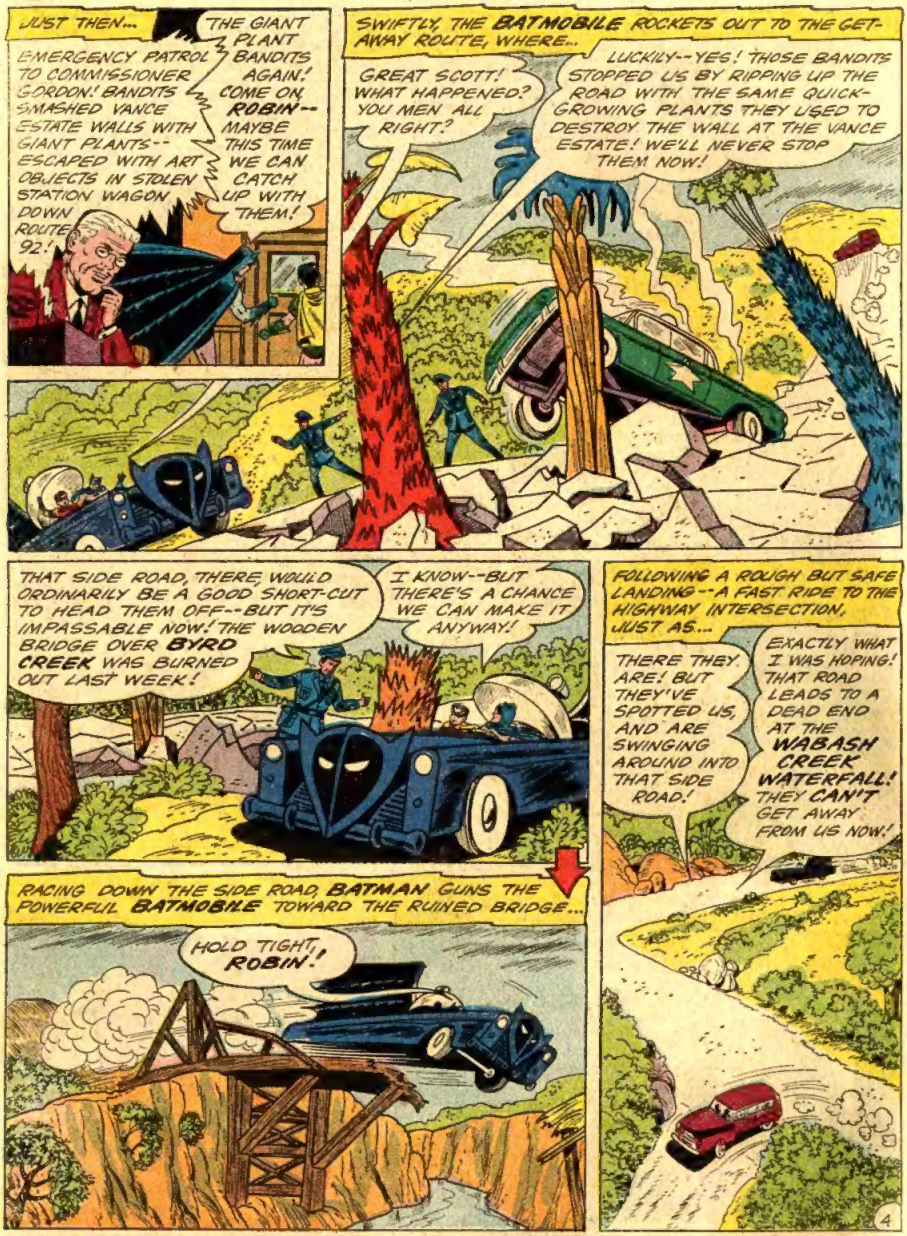
BATMAN'S WORDS ARE FULFILLED THE VERY NEXT DAY, WHEN...

EXPLODING GAS PODS ON GIANT PLANT HIDE GEM-BANDIT GETAWAY

AFTERWARD, IN RESPONSE TO AN URGENT CALL FROM POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON...

BATMAN--WE FOUND THIS AMNESIA VICTIM WANDERING AROUND THE STREETS AN HOUR AGO! HE DOESN'T KNOW WHO HE IS OR WHERE HE'S FROM, BUT WE FOUND **THESE** IN HIS POCKETS!

SEEDS!... AND THOSE GREENISH ONES MATCH THE ONES WE FOUND AT THE JEWEL IMPORTERS!


JUST THEN...
EMERGENCY PATROL TO COMMISSIONER GORDON! BANDITS SMASHED VANCE ESTATE WALLS WITH GIANT PLANTS-- ESCAPED WITH ART OBJECTS IN STOLEN STATION WAGON DOWN ROUTE 92!
THE GIANT PLANT BANDITS AGAIN! COME ON, ROBIN-- MAYBE THIS TIME WE CAN CATCH UP WITH THEM!
SWIFTLY, THE BATMOBILE ROCKETS OUT TO THE GET-AWAY ROUTE, WHERE...
GREAT SCOTT! WHAT HAPPENED? YOU MEN ALL RIGHT?
LUCKILY--YES! THOSE BANDITS STOPPED US BY RIPPING UP THE ROAD WITH THE SAME QUICK-GROWING PLANTS THEY USED TO DESTROY THE WALL AT THE VANCE ESTATE! WE'LL NEVER STOP THEM NOW!
THAT SIDE ROAD, THERE, WOULD ORDINARILY BE A GOOD SHORT-CUT TO HEAD THEM OFF--BUT IT'S IMPASSABLE NOW! THE WOODEN BRIDGE OVER BYRD CREEK WAS BURNED OUT LAST WEEK!
I KNOW--BUT THERE'S A CHANCE WE CAN MAKE IT ANYWAY!
RACING DOWN THE SIDE ROAD, BATMAN GUNS THE POWERFUL BATMOBILE TOWARD THE RUINED BRIDGE...
HOLD TIGHT, ROBIN!
FOLLOWING A ROUGH BUT SAFE LANDING--A FAST RIDE TO THE HIGHWAY INTERSECTION, JUST AS...
THERE THEY ARE! BUT THEY'VE SPOTTED US, AND ARE SWINGING AROUND INTO THAT SIDE ROAD!
EXACTLY WHAT I WAS HOPING! THAT ROAD LEADS TO A DEAD END AT THE WABASH CREEK WATERFALL! THEY CAN'T GET AWAY FROM US NOW!
4

AND WHERE THAT ROAD NARROWS TO A FOOTPATH...
THEY ABANDONED THEIR GETAWAY CAR, AND RAN DOWN THE GORGE! BUT THEY'LL SOON BE CUT OFF BY THE WATERFALL AROUND THE TURN THERE! COME ON, ROBIN--WE'VE GOT THEM CORNERED THIS TIME!
BUT, SOME YARDS DOWN THE THIN TRAIL...
ANOTHER GIANT PLANT... SHOOTING OUT DEADLY NEEDLES, LIKE ARROWS! HOW'LL WE EVER GET BY THAT?
HMM--THERE'S ONLY ONE THING WE CAN TRY...
WITH BAT-ROPES, THEY LASSO AN OVERHANGING ROCK, AND...
"WHEW! THAT ONE MISSED ME BY A HAIR!
SAFELY PAST THE MENACING CACTUS, BATMAN AND ROBIN RETURN TO THE NARROW FOOTPATH...
THAT WASN'T MUCH OF A DELAY! ONCE AROUND THAT NEXT TURN, WE'LL HAVE THE GANG CORNERED AT THE WATERFALL!
BUT ROUNDING THE TURN, THE CRIME-FIGHTERS GAPE AT A STARTLING SIGHT...
HOLY SMOKE!... THEY USED ANOTHER GIANT PLANT, TO FREEZE THE WATERFALL!
AND THEY'RE CLIMBING RIGHT UP THE ICY SIDE! WE'LL NEVER OVERTAKE THEM NOW!

LATER, WHILE DRIVING BACK TO COMMISSIONER GORDON'S OFFICE...
CALLING BATMAN! BANDITS CRACKED HOSPITAL WALL WITH STRANGE PLANT! AMNESIA VICTIM KIDNAPPED!
THEY ACTED QUICKLY, ROBIN! THE AMNESIA VICTIM WAS THE ONE LINK I WAS COUNTING ON, TO LEAD TO THE SOLUTION OF THIS CASE!
SOON AFTER, WHILE CHECKING FOR CLUES IN THE HOSPITAL ROOM ONCE OCCUPIED BY THE AMNESIA VICTIM...
HMMM--MUD?...ON THIS SPOTLESS HOSPITAL FLOOR? IT MUST COME FROM ONE OF THE BANDITS' SHOES! LET'S SEE WHAT A LAB ANALYSIS CAN TELL US!
SHORTLY, IN A MOUNTAINOUS AREA ABOVE GOTHAM CITY...
WE FOUND PARTICLES OF LAVA IN THAT MUD... AND THIS MOUNTAIN IS THE ONLY EXTINCT VOLCANIC FORMATION IN THIS AREA! THAT ABANDONED FARMHOUSE, 'WAY UP ABOVE, COULD MAKE AN IDEAL HIDEOUT!
INDEED, INSIDE THAT VERY FARMHOUSE...
WE'RE SOON GONNA NEED MORE OF THAT LIQUID PLANT STIMULANT, AND YOU'RE GONNA HAVE TO MAKE IT, SEE? NO STALLING--TRY TO REMEMBER!
BUT I CAN'T REMEMBER...I--I CAN'T!
JUST THEN...
BOSS--I SPOTTED BATMAN AND ROBIN SNEAKING UP THIS WAY!
WHAT? QUICK--WE'LL STOP 'EM WITH ANOTHER CACTUS PLANT!
OW-W!... MY HEAD!
RUSHING OUTSIDE, THE THUGS HASTILY PLANT THEIR STRANGE SEEDS...
THESE GIANT CACTI WILL SPRING UP JUST AS BATMAN AND ROBIN GET CLOSE! THEY WON'T HAVE TIME TO RETREAT BEFORE THE DEADLY NEEDLES GET THEM!

BUT AT THAT INSTANT, ON THE STEPS OF THE FARMHOUSE...
EVIL EARTHLINGS! THAT ACCIDENTAL BLOW ON MY HEAD RESTORED MY MEMORY! BY MENTAL COMMAND, I HAVE RESUMED MY NORMAL APPEARANCE!
HUH? THAT CLOTHING ON THE STEPS...IT BELONGS TO HIM! HE--HE'S REALLY AN ALIEN!
IN THAT SAME MOMENT...
GIANT CACTI AGAIN!...AND WE'RE TOO CLOSE TO RETREAT OUT OF RANGE, BEFORE THOSE NEEDLES GET US!
BUT SUDDENLY...
NEVER WILL I ALLOW MY SEEDS TO BE PUT TO SUCH WICKED USE!
THE ALIEN'S HELPING BATMAN AND ROBIN! THIS GUN WILL FINISH HIM!
WHAT?? SO THAT'S THE ANSWER!
NOT BEFORE THIS BATARANG FINISHES YOU!
OW!
NOW TO "PLANT" A COUPLE OF FISTS--- WHERE THEY'LL DO THE MOST GOOD!

LATER, WITH THE GANG HANDCUFFED...
YOU SAY, ON YOUR PLANET YOU'RE A SCIENTIFIC FARMER?... AND YOU CAME HERE TO TEST YOUR SEEDS UNDER EARTHLY GROWING CONDITIONS?
YES--BUT I FIRST ASSUMED AN EARTHLING'S APPEARANCE, TO AVOID ATTRACTING UNDUE ATTENTION!
"TO MY AMAZEMENT, EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE AFFECTED THE SEEDS FREAKISHLY--AND, INDEED, THE SUDDEN GROWTH OF ONE PLANT'S BRANCH GAVE ME THE BLOW THAT CAUSED MY AMNESIA..."
OH--MY HEAD!
AND YOU HAD YOUR HIDEOUT IN THE BARN NEARBY, DIDN'T YOU!
YEAH! WE SECRETLY WATCHED HOW THE GUY GREW THOSE CRAZY PLANTS--SO WHEN HE WANDERED AWAY WITH AMNESIA, WE TOOK OVER!
8
AFTERWARDS, WHEN THE ALIEN RETRIEVES HIS SPACECRAFT, HIDDEN IN A NEARBY CAVERN...
FAREWELL, BATMAN... I AM DEEPLY SORRY MY PLANTS CAUSED SO MUCH TROUBLE!
ON THE CONTRARY--WITHOUT YOUR HELP, WE MIGHT NOT HAVE HARVESTED THIS FINE CROP FOR THE STATE PRISON!
The End

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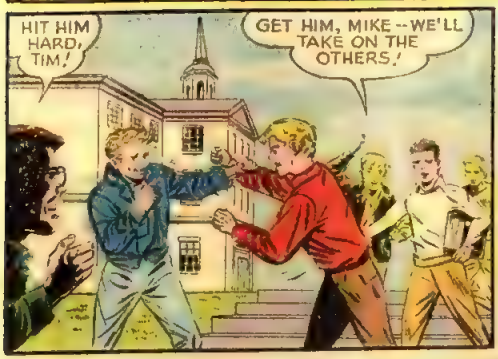
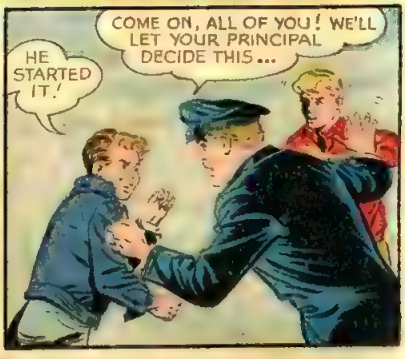
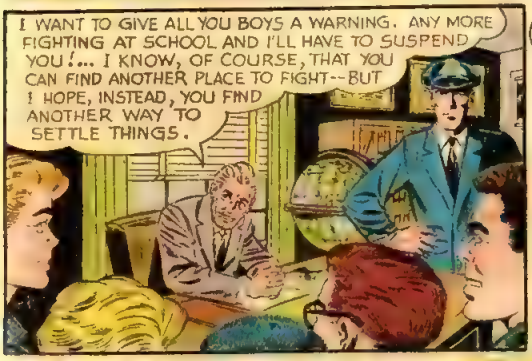
JAIL JESTS
HENRY BOLTINOFF
THERE! THE STONES ARE ALL OUT. NOW, LET'S SLIP THEM BACK UNTIL LATER.
WHEN IT'S REAL DARK, WE CAN ESCAPE. LET'S MAKE IT THREE O'CLOCK.
OKAY!
AND AT 3 A.M.
R-RING
WHAT'S GOING ON IN THAT CELL?
R-RRING
YOU SAP! WHAT DID YOU DO?
I SET MY ALARM CLOCK TO WAKE ME AT THREE!
R-RING

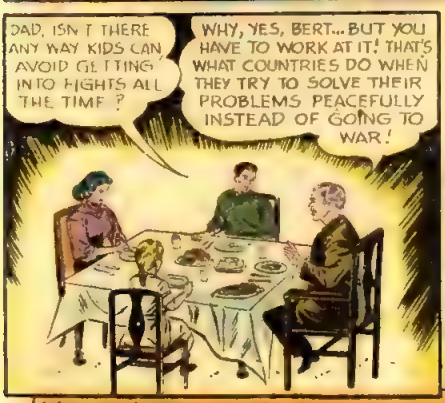
TIME-OUT for TALK!

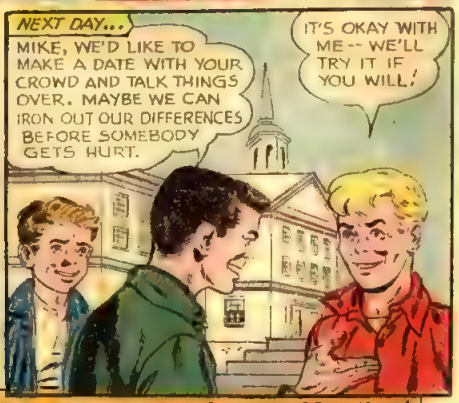





I WANT TO GIVE ALL YOU BOYS A WARNING. ANY MORE FIGHTING AT SCHOOL AND I'LL HAVE TO SUSPEND YOU!... I KNOW, OF COURSE, THAT YOU CAN FIND ANOTHER PLACE TO FIGHT--BUT I HOPE, INSTEAD, YOU FIND ANOTHER WAY TO SETTLE THINGS.

THOSE GUYS HAVE BEEN ASKING FOR IT!
SURE--BUT YOU KNOW OUR BUNCH IS JUST AS BAD. WE'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT GETTING BACK AT THEM EVERY DAY!


DAD, ISN'T THERE ANY WAY KIDS CAN AVOID GETTING INTO FIGHTS ALL THE TIME?
WHY, YES, BERT... BUT YOU HAVE TO WORK AT IT! THAT'S WHAT COUNTRIES DO WHEN THEY TRY TO SOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS PEACEFULLY INSTEAD OF GOING TO WAR!


NEXT DAY...
MIKE, WE'D LIKE TO MAKE A DATE WITH YOUR CROWD AND TALK THINGS OVER. MAYBE WE CAN IRON OUT OUR DIFFERENCES BEFORE SOMEBODY GETS HURT.
IT'S OKAY WITH ME -- WE'LL TRY IT IF YOU WILL!

WINNING A PEACE IS HARDER THAN WINNING A FIGHT. EVERYONE MUST WORK AT IT!

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JUST ONE SECOND!

THAT'S THE TIME IT TAKES FOR...

The RHEA (FASTEST BIRD ON TWO FEET) TO RUN 60 FEET!

The CHEETAH (SPEED KING OF THE ANIMAL WORLD!) TO DASH 100 FEET!

The DUCK HAWK (FASTEST FLYING BIRD) TO WHIZ 260 FEET!

A LIGHTNING BOLT TO TRAVEL 186,234 MILES!

but The FLASH WORLD'S FASTEST HUMAN

CAN MOVE FASTER IN ONE SECOND THAN ALL THESE SPEEDS— COMBINED!

SUPERMAN DC NATIONAL COMICS

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Don't miss this issue for the startling secret behind GREEN LANTERN'S Triple Identity!

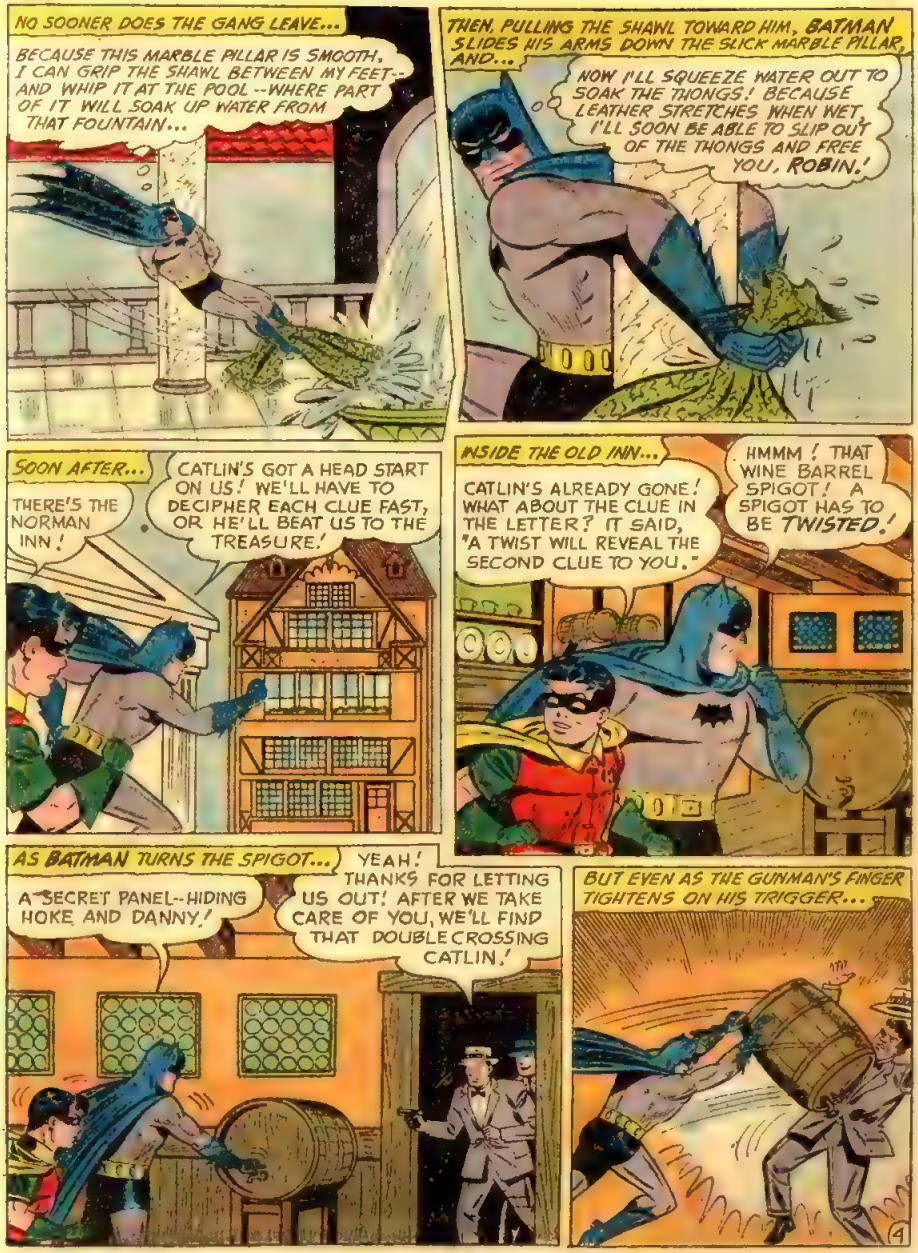
SUPERMAN DC NATIONAL COMICS

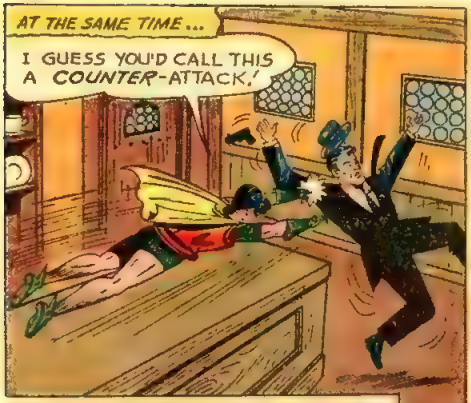
NOW ON SALE!

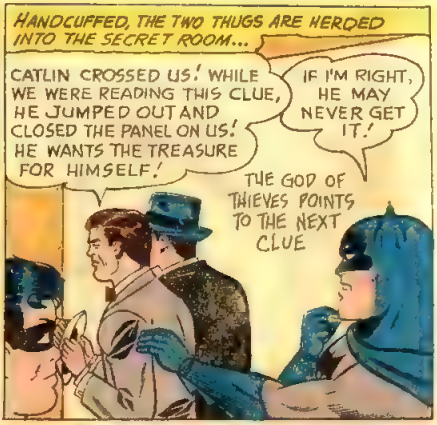
BAT MAN
with ROBIN
OF ALL THE HOBBIES, BRIGGS' WAS PROBABLY THE STRANGEST, BECAUSE HE COLLECTED BUILDINGS! THEN, AMID THESE STRUCTURES, TWO SEARCHES BEGAN--A PERILOUS MANHUNT AND A TREASURE HUNT, WHICH FINALLY ENDED WHEN BATMAN AND ROBIN DECIPHERED THE STRANGE CLUE THAT REVEALED...
The SECRET of MYSTERY ISLAND!
BATMAN'S CAUGHT UP WITH CATLIN! THAT ENDS THE MANHUNT... BUT NOT THE TREASURE HUNT!
BOB KANE

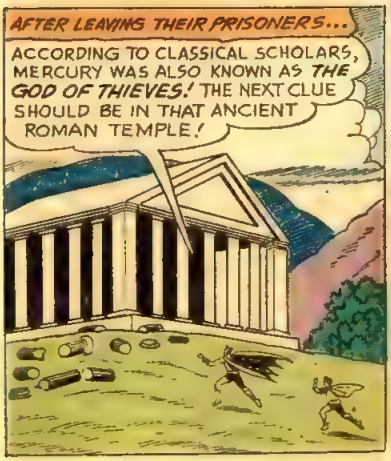
IN HIS SWANK APARTMENT, A DYING MILLIONAIRE UTTERS HIS LAST WORDS..
BOSS, WHAT ABOUT THE TREASURE? IT AIN'T FAIR TO ME AND THE BOYS WHO WORKED SO HARD FOR YOU... IF YOU TAKE THE SECRET OF IT WITH YOU!
YOU'RE RIGHT, CATLIN! TAKE THIS KEY... IT WILL OPEN THE SAFE! IN IT IS A LETTER... THAT WILL TELL YOU WHAT TO DO...
LEAVING, CATLIN IS UNAWARE THAT THE CONVERSATION HAS BEEN OVERHEARD BY TWO CAPED FIGURES ON THE BALCONY...
THIS PROVES WHAT WE SUSPECTED--THAT BRIGGS NOT ONLY WAS AN ARCHITECT, BUT THE HEAD OF A CRIMINAL GANG--AND CATLIN WAS HIS ASSISTANT!
THAT "TREASURE" IS PROBABLY STOLEN GOODS! IF WE TRAIL CATLIN, HE'LL LEAD US TO IT!
SOMETIME LATER, THE BAT-PLANE WINGS SILENTLY AFTER A SPEEDING LAUNCH...
LOOK, BATMAN--HE'S HEADING FOR THAT ISLAND! IT MUST BE THE PLACE BRIGGS MENTIONED BEFORE HE DIED!
WE'LL LAND SECRETLY AND THEN SEE WHERE CATLIN GOES!
ON LANDING, THE MANHUNTERS VIEW A STUNNING SETTING...
GOSH! BUILDINGS--ALL KINDS!
I ONCE HEARD, BRIGGS HAD AN INTERESTING HOBBY FOR AN ARCHITECT! HE COLLECTED BUILDINGS FROM VARIOUS COUNTRIES! HE BOUGHT THEM--AND HAD THEM TRANSPORTED HERE, BRICK BY BRICK, STONE BY STONE!
THERE'S CATLIN--SNEAKING INTO THAT SPANISH VILLA! THAT MUST BE WHERE THE SAFE IS!
2

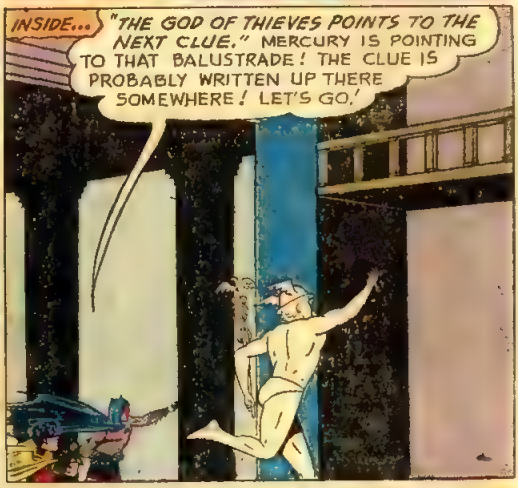
INSIDE, JUST AS HE OPENS THE SAFE...
THE TREASURE WILL BE ALL MINE AND --
HUH? HOKE-- DANNY!
WE KINDA FIGURED YOU'D TRY TO DOUBLE-CROSS US --SO WAITED FOR YOU!
WAIT, BOYS! WE'RE ALL PART OF THE SAME GANG! THERE'S PLENTY OF TREASURE FOR ALL OF US! THIS LETTER WILL TELL US WHERE TO FIND IT!
OKAY-- BUT NO TRICKS! WHAT'S THE LETTER SAY?
"A SERIES OF CLUES WILL LEAD YOU TO THE TREASURE. THE FIRST CLUE IS IN THE NORMAN INN! A TWIST WILL REVEAL THE SECOND CLUE TO YOU!"
AS THE CAPED CRIME-BUSTERS EAVESDROP...
PSST! THE REFLECTIONS OF BATMAN AND ROBIN! THEY'RE BEHIND THAT SIDEBOARD!
ON SIGNAL, THE GANGSTERS ACT -- CATCHING THE PAIR BY SURPRISE!
UHH!
OOF!
STUNNED, THE WIND SLAMMED OUT OF THEM, BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE SWIFTLY BOUND TO PILLARS IN A PATIO...
THESE LEATHER STRIPS WILL KEEP THEM OUT OF THE WAY WHILE WE TRACK DOWN THE TREASURE!
HMM! IF CATLIN ONLY KNEW HE'S GIVEN US A CHANCE TO BREAK FREE...
3

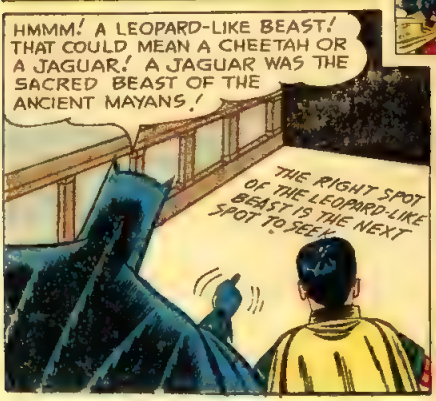

NO SOONER DOES THE GANG LEAVE...
BECAUSE THIS MARBLE PILLAR IS SMOOTH, I CAN GRIP THE SHAWL BETWEEN MY FEET-- AND WHIP IT AT THE POOL --WHERE PART OF IT WILL SOAK UP WATER FROM THAT FOUNTAIN...
THEN, PULLING THE SHAWL TOWARD HIM, BATMAN SLIDES HIS ARMS DOWN THE SLICK MARBLE PILLAR, AND...
NOW I'LL SQUEEZE WATER OUT TO SOAK THE THONGS! BECAUSE LEATHER STRETCHES WHEN WET, I'LL SOON BE ABLE TO SLIP OUT OF THE THONGS AND FREE YOU, ROBIN!
SOON AFTER...
THERE'S THE NORMAN INN!
CATLIN'S GOT A HEAD START ON US! WE'LL HAVE TO DECIPHER EACH CLUE FAST, OR HE'LL BEAT US TO THE TREASURE!
INSIDE THE OLD INN...
CATLIN'S ALREADY GONE! WHAT ABOUT THE CLUE IN THE LETTER? IT SAID, "A TWIST WILL REVEAL THE SECOND CLUE TO YOU."
HMMM! THAT WINE BARREL SPIGOT! A SPIGOT HAS TO BE TWISTED!
AS BATMAN TURNS THE SPIGOT...
A SECRET PANEL--HIDING HOKE AND DANNY!
YEAH! THANKS FOR LETTING US OUT! AFTER WE TAKE CARE OF YOU, WE'LL FIND THAT DOUBLE CROSSING CATLIN!
BUT EVEN AS THE GUNMAN'S FINGER TIGHTENS ON HIS TRIGGER...
4

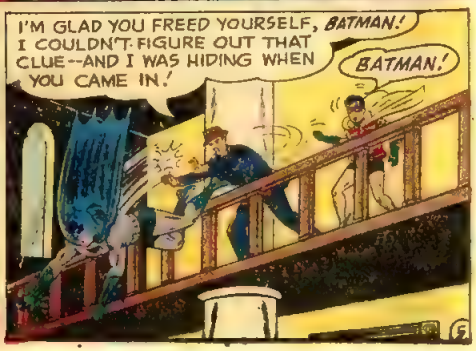

AT THE SAME TIME...
I GUESS YOU'D CALL THIS A COUNTER-ATTACK!


HANDCUFFED, THE TWO THUGS ARE HERDED INTO THE SECRET ROOM...
CATLIN CROSSED US! WHILE WE WERE READING THIS CLUE, HE JUMPED OUT AND CLOSED THE PANEL ON US! HE WANTS THE TREASURE FOR HIMSELF!
IF I'M RIGHT, HE MAY NEVER GET IT!
THE GOD OF THIEVES POINTS TO THE NEXT CLUE


AFTER LEAVING THEIR PRISONERS...
ACCORDING TO CLASSICAL SCHOLARS, MERCURY WAS ALSO KNOWN AS THE GOD OF THIEVES! THE NEXT CLUE SHOULD BE IN THAT ANCIENT ROMAN TEMPLE!

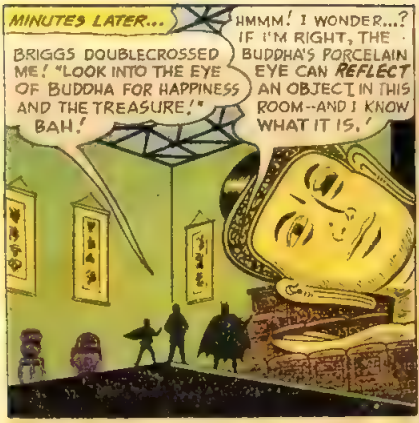

INSIDE...
"THE GOD OF THIEVES POINTS TO THE NEXT CLUE." MERCURY IS POINTING TO THAT BALUSTRADE! THE CLUE IS PROBABLY WRITTEN UP THERE SOMEWHERE! LET'S GO!

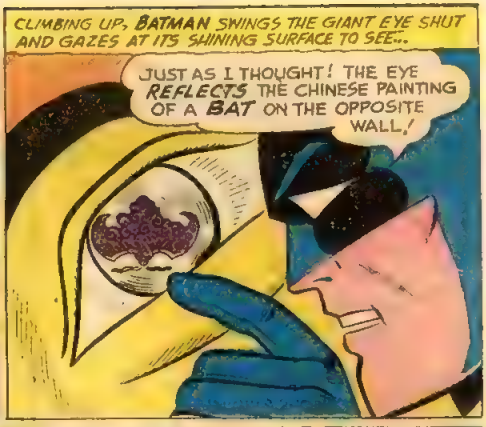

HMMM! A LEOPARD-LIKE BEAST! THAT COULD MEAN A CHEETAH OR A JAGUAR! A JAGUAR WAS THE SACRED BEAST OF THE ANCIENT MAYANS!
THE RIGHT SPOT OF THE LEOPARD-LIKE BEAST IS THE NEXT SPOT TO SEEK!

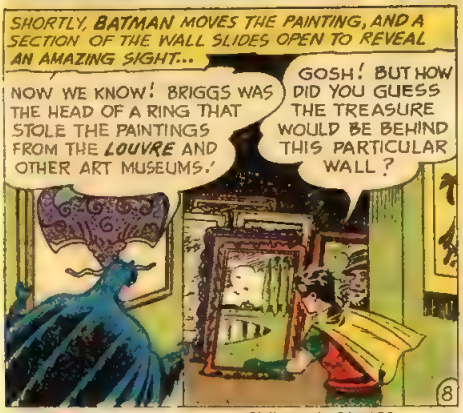

I'M GLAD YOU FREED YOURSELF, BATMAN! I COULDN'T FIGURE OUT THAT CLUE--AND I WAS HIDING WHEN YOU CAME IN!
BATMAN!

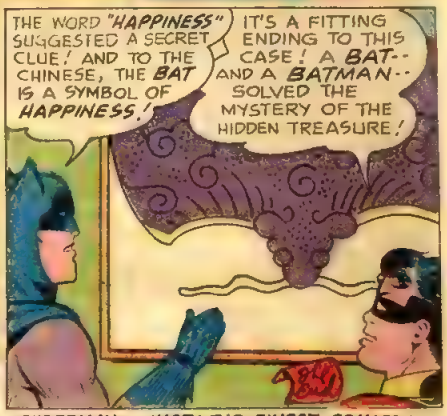
AS ROBIN STANDS ROOTED, TOO DAZED TO MOVE...
THAT SETTLES THE TWO OF YOU! NOW I'LL SCRAM OUT OF HERE!
MEANWHILE, WHAT OF BATMAN PLUNGING TO HIS DOOM?
ONLY ONE HOPE! IF I MISS--I'M A GONER!
STEEL-STRONG HANDS THRUST OUT, AND --
GOT IT! WHEW!
RETURNING, BATMAN SWIFTLY REVIVES ROBIN AND...
CATLIN'S PROBABLY LEARNED THE NEXT CLUE! WE'VE GOT TO HURRY!
SHORTLY, INSIDE THE MAYAN TEMPLE...
LOOK INTO THE EYE OF BUDDHA FOR HAPPINESS AND THE TREASURE.
TOUCHING ONE OF THE JAGUAR'S SPOTS DID IT! AT LAST -- THE FINAL CLUE!
6

MEANWHILE...
THERE HAD TO BE A BUDDHA IN THIS CHINESE TEMPLE! THAT UPPER EYE PROBABLY SWINGS OPEN--AND THE TREASURE MUST BE INSIDE IT!
AS CATLIN EAGERLY OPENS THE GIGANTIC ORB...
IT'S EMPTY! BRIGGS DOUBLECROSSED ME! HE NEVER PUT THE TREASURE HERE!
CATLIN MAKES A DESPERATE BUT FUTILE EFFORT TO ESCAPE...
WHAT...? BATMAN! ALIVE!
END OF THE MANHUNT--BUT NOT THE TREASURE HUNT!


MINUTES LATER...
BRIGGS DOUBLECROSSED ME! "LOOK INTO THE EYE OF BUDDHA FOR HAPPINESS AND THE TREASURE!" BAH!
HMMM! I WONDER...? IF I'M RIGHT, THE BUDDHA'S PORCELAIN EYE CAN REFLECT AN OBJECT IN THIS ROOM--AND I KNOW WHAT IT IS.


CLIMBING UP, BATMAN SWINGS THE GIANT EYE SHUT AND GAZES AT ITS SHINING SURFACE TO SEE...
JUST AS I THOUGHT! THE EYE REFLECTS THE CHINESE PAINTING OF A BAT ON THE OPPOSITE WALL!


SHORTLY, BATMAN MOVES THE PAINTING, AND A SECTION OF THE WALL SLIDES OPEN TO REVEAL AN AMAZING SIGHT...
NOW WE KNOW! BRIGGS WAS THE HEAD OF A RING THAT STOLE THE PAINTINGS FROM THE LOUVRE AND OTHER ART MUSEUMS!
GOSH! BUT HOW DID YOU GUESS THE TREASURE WOULD BE BEHIND THIS PARTICULAR WALL?
8


THE WORD "HAPPINESS" SUGGESTED A SECRET CLUE! AND TO THE CHINESE, THE BAT IS A SYMBOL OF HAPPINESS!
IT'S A FITTING ENDING TO THIS CASE! A BAT-- AND A BATMAN-- SOLVED THE MYSTERY OF THE HIDDEN TREASURE!

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ME COMMAND THE FISH... SHARP CUT SPEARS AND ARROWS BEFORE THEY REACH HIM
I WILL BE AVENGED BY THE APPLES GOD OF THE SEA, POSEIDON
Rip Hunter... TIME MASTER
GREAT THUNDER! THEY GOT HOLD OF ALADDIN'S LAMP... AND HAVE MATERIALIZED THE GENIE
AN AMAZING ADVENTURE OF ANCIENT BAGHDAD
in Startling 3-PART NOVELS
ON SALE MAR. 22nd
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DC
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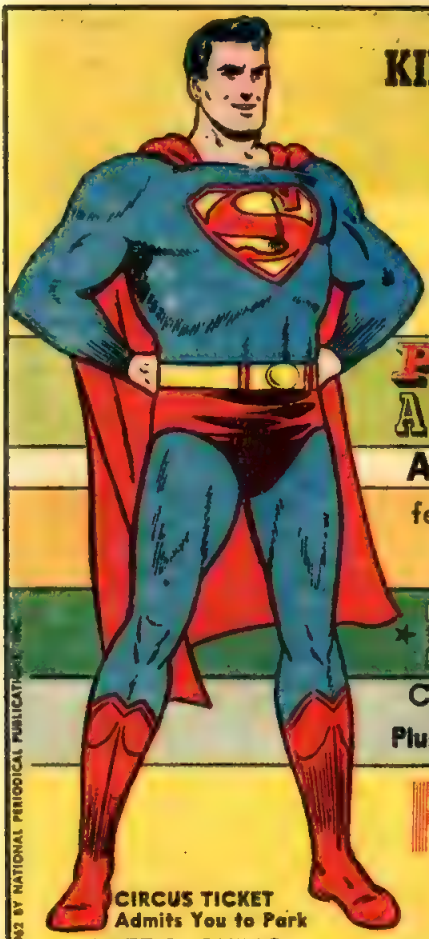
ON SALE MAR. 15th



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Dear Editor: In your last "LETTERS" page, you described how BATMAN uses ultra-violet light to bring out substances that are invisible to the naked eye. Isn't infra-red *light used for this same purpose?*

Pamela Drake, New York, N. Y.

(Definitely. Hidden substances that don't respond to ultra-violet light often show up under infra-red, and vice versa.—Ed.)

* * *

Dear Editor: I certainly enjoyed your story in which THE SECOND BATMAN AND ROBIN TEAM matched wits with "THE SON OF THE JOKER!" Any story about THE JOKER is fine with me. Keep 'em coming.

Mervin Lowery, Concord, N. H.

(Thanks for the kind words, Merv. *All* our readers seem to enjoy JOKER adventures. You'll next be seeing BATMAN'S arch-enemy in the JUNE issue of BATMAN COMICS, No. 148—where he manages to *unmask* the caped crime-fighter! Small wonder that we're calling this tale, "THE JOKER'S GREATEST TRIUMPH!"—Ed.)

* * *

Dear Editor: When investigating a crime, the police often have trouble getting a good description of the criminal, because every witness seems to get a different impression. Yet, when BATMAN and ROBIN witness a crime, they never seem to disagree on the crook's appearance. How did they develop this talent for precise identification?

Don Kelly, Winston-Salem, N. C.

(The caped crime-fighters developed this ability the same way all law enforcement officers do—by practicing in their everyday life, on ordinary people, according to a standard pattern. Generally, the method is to observe your subject from top to bottom, both for physical appearance and clothing worn, while making note of general characteristics such as age, height, weight, etc. In other words, the first place their eyes alight on is the head, noting the color of the crook's hair, the hat he wears; from there, they move down along the face, noting the complexion and general shape, the formation of the ears, the color of the eyes, if possible; and then to his shirt and tie, his coat, trousers, socks and shoes, all the while keeping alert for unusual characteristics, such as scars, mannerisms, etc. Naturally, it isn't always easy to observe every one of these factors, but BATMAN and ROBIN have found this system most effective.—Ed.)

* * *

Dear Editor: When BATMAN and ROBIN investigate crimes, do they ever use stool pigeons? It seems to me a few good "stoolies" would be a great help to them.

Mary Moody, San Francisco, Cal.

(Naturally, BATMAN and ROBIN wouldn't neglect any lead they could get in a criminal investigation—but, as any lawman will tell you, the professional stool pigeon is not so reliable an informant as many people seem to think. That's why the caped crime-fighters have no "stoolies" in their employ. Often as not, the stool pigeon works both sides of the law, selling information to both the police and criminals, making him a risk as well as an unreliable source. On the other hand, BATMAN and ROBIN do have many devoted friends in strategic places—waiters, newsstand proprietors, cab drivers—who are always happy to help them out.—Ed.)

* * *

Dear Editor: A good, old-fashioned murder mystery is my favorite type of story, especially when BATMAN and ROBIN are the sleuths. Let me know when you'll be giving us another one.

Lyle Wingate, Chelsea, Mass.

(We think the one in the MAY issue of DETECTIVE COMICS, No. 303, is real good but hardly "old-fashioned." In fact, it's just the opposite, because the murder occurs in a fabulous replica of a future world—and it is there that BATMAN and ROBIN must solve the "MURDER IN SKYLAND!"—Ed.)

BAT-MAN
WITH
ROBIN
-THE BOY WONDER-
ACME TIRE CO
IMAGINE BATMAN AS A FOUR-YEAR OLD! IMAGINE BATMAN THE SIZE OF A CHILD--AND HAVING TO OVERCOME THIS HANDICAP IN ORDER TO GO ON FIGHTING CRIME! YES--THIS IS EXACTLY WHAT OCCURS, WHEN GANGLAND TAKES REVENGE UPON ITS GREAT ENEMY, AND LAUGHS MOCKINGLY WHEN...
BATMAN BECOMES BAT-BABY
BAT-BABY FLEW UP HERE--BY CLINGING TO THAT ADVERTISING BALLOON!
IT'S ROBIN--AND BAT-BABY!
BOB KANE

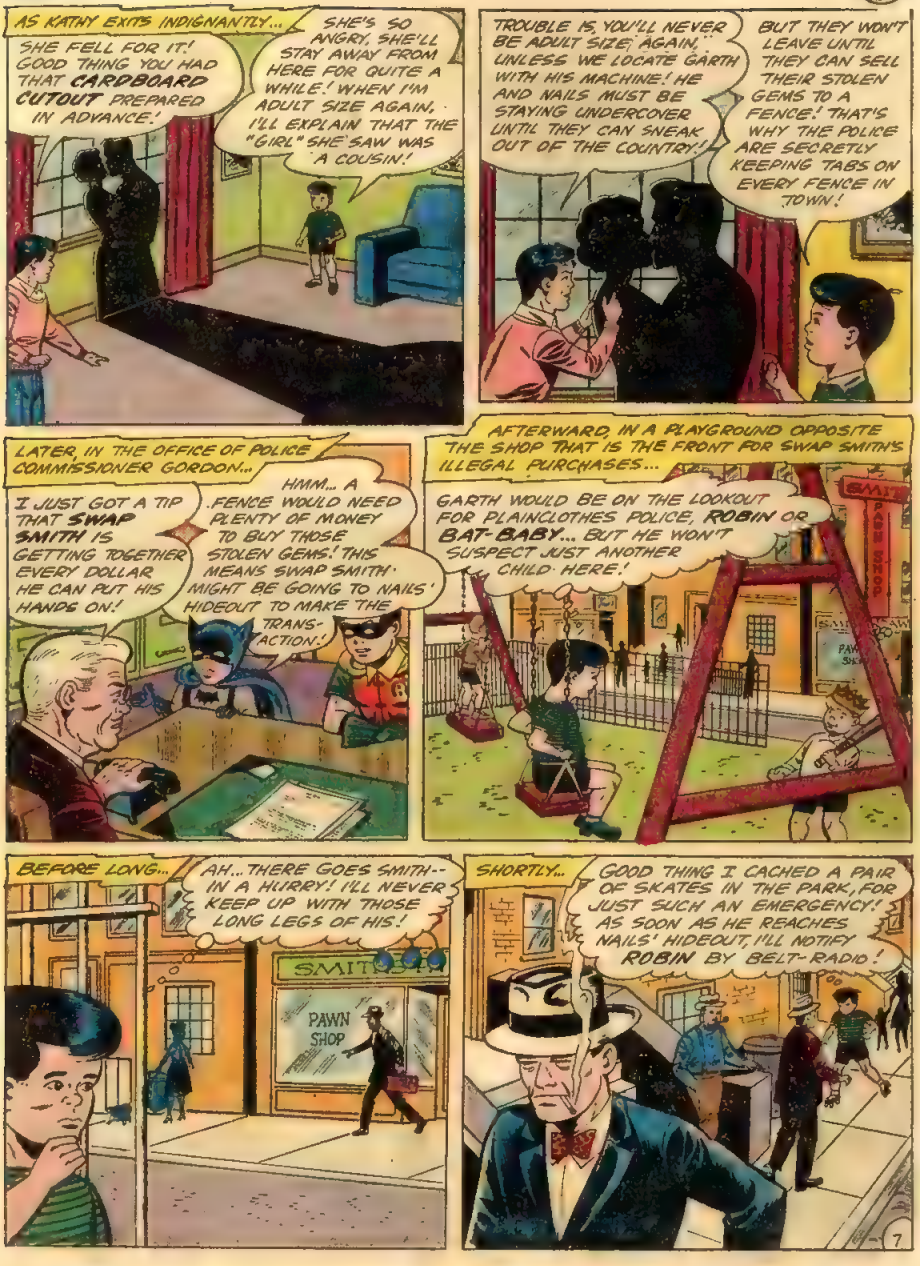
NIGHTFALL--AND ON A ROOFTOP, TWO CAPED FIGURES WAIT TENSELY..
WHOEVER TIPPED US OFF TO THIS HIDEOUT WAS CERTAINLY RIGHT! THERE'S NAILS FINNEY AND HIS GANG!
NOW MAYBE WE'LL RECOVER THE FORTUNE IN GEMS THEY STOLE FROM THE GOTHAM JEWELRY STORE TWO DAYS AGO!
MOMENTS LATER...
BATMAN AND ROBIN!
WELL, WELL --LOOK WHO'S PART OF THIS GANG... GARTH, THE RENEGADE SCIENTIST! QUITE A CREW, EH?
OOF!
LET'S NOT WASTE ANY TIME WITH 'EM, ROBIN!
BUT AS BATMAN MOVES FORWARD..
NOW!
WHAT--? AN EERIE RAY OF LIGHT--BATHING ME!
G-GOLLY!... BATMAN!... YOU'RE SHRINKING!
THE PROCESS IS TAKING EFFECT! IN A FEW MOMENTS, IT WILL BE COMPLETE!
OKAY--LET'S LAM! THAT SMOKE BOMB WILL HIDE US WHILE WE ESCAPE!
CRASH

WHEN THE SMOKE FINALLY CLEARS...
B-BATMAN! GULP! YOU LOOK LIKE A LITTLE CHILD!
THAT MACHINE... SOMEHOW, IT'S ABLE TO REVERSE GROWTH!
NAILS LED US INTO A TRAP! HE ALWAYS SWORE TO AVENGE HIMSELF, AND HE DID IT -- BY HIRING GARTH TO INVENT A MACHINE THAT WOULD MAKE YOU LIKE... LIKE THIS!
I'D BETTER CARRY YOU TO THE BAT-MOBILE! YOU CAN'T WALK WHILE YOUR COSTUME IS SAGGING ALL ABOUT YOU!
ROBIN -- I NEVER THOUGHT THERE'D BE A TIME WHEN YOU'D HAVE TO CARRY ME IN YOUR ARMS LIKE A BABY!
SOME TIME LATER, PHOTOGRAPHS COME TO THE EDITOR'S DESK AT THE GOTHAM GAZETTE...
ACCORDING TO THIS LETTER, GARTH HAD A CAMERA HIDDEN IN HIS MACHINE -- AND IT PHOTOGRAPHED BATMAN! MUCH AS I HATE TO DO IT, I MUST PRINT THESE PHOTOS! THE PUBLIC HAS A RIGHT TO THE TRUTH!
SO IT IS THAT THE WORLD SOON LEARNS OF BATMAN'S STRANGE FATE...
GOTHAM GAZETTE
GANGLAND TURNS BATMAN INTO BABY
CRIMINAL SCIENTIST USES RAY THAT REVERSES BATMAN'S GROWTH!
AND EVERYWHERE, GOOD CITIZENS TAKE THE NEWS UNHAPPILY...
THIS IS TERRIBLE... POOR BATMAN!
BATMAN CAN'T FIGHT CRIME ANY MORE NOW! HIS CAREER IS FINISHED!

AND IN NAILS FINNEY'S HIDEOUT...
OTHER GANGSTERS TRIED TO KILL BATMAN-- BUT, WITH GARTH'S HELP, I STOPPED HIM IN A BETTER WAY!
INSTEAD OF MAKING A DEAD BATMAN INTO A MARTYR-- WE'VE MADE A LIVE BATMAN INTO A LAUGHING STOCK... ;HA,HA;
MEANWHILE, IN THE WAYNE MANSION...
WITH THOSE TELEPHONE BOOKS UNDER YOU, YOU'LL BE ABLE TO REACH THE TABLE NOW, SIR!
THANK YOU, ALFRED!
;SIGH;. IF ONLY I COULD GET MY HANDS ON GARTH'S MACHINE AND REVERSE ITS POWER...
LATER, WHILE EXPERIMENTING IN THE GYM...
FORTUNATELY, THERE WAS ONE FLAW IN GARTH'S MACHINE! I STILL NOT ONLY THINK LIKE AN ADULT--I ALSO RETAIN MY ADULT STRENGTH!
GOSH... IT'S AS IF YOUR STRENGTH WAS CONDENSED-- PUT IN A SMALLER PACKAGE!
I'M GOING INTO RIGID TRAINING :-- SO I CAN ADJUST TO MY NEW SIZE --AND THEN HUNT FOR GARTH AND HIS RAY MACHINE! ONLY THAT MACHINE CAN RESTORE ME TO ADULT SIZE AGAIN!
NEXT DAY.
SO GANGLAND IS NOW CALLING ME A BABY! WELL, I'LL DRESS LIKE A BABY, AND PROVE TO THEM THAT I'M STILL A CRIME-FIGHTER--AS BAT-BABY!

THAT NIGHT, AS THE UNIQUE TEAM OF BAT-BABY AND ROBIN PATROL THE STREETS...
HELP! THREE BANDITS--GOING UP THAT FIRE ESCAPE!
THEY'RE GOING TO MAKE THEIR GETAWAY OVER THE ROOFTOP!
AS THE CRIME-FIGHTERS RUSH UP THE FIRE ESCAPE IN PURSUIT...
MY LEGS ARE TOO SHORT TO KEEP UP WITH ROBIN! HMM--WAIT... THAT GAS-FILLED ADVERTISING BALLOON GIVES ME AN IDEA!
INSTANTS LATER, BAT-BABY GOES AIRBORNE!
IT'S ONLY BECAUSE I DON'T WEIGH MUCH THAT THIS HELIUM-FILLED BALLOON WILL CARRY ME RIGHT UP TO THE ROOF!
ACME TIRE CO.
IT--IT'S BAT-BABY!
HE GOT UP HERE FAST--BUT HE'LL GO DOWN FAST, TOO, AFTER I PUT A HOLE IN THAT BALLOON!
BUT EVEN AS A SHOT RINGS OUT, THE BANTAM BATTLER SAVES HIMSELF WITH A LEAP AT A TAUT WIRE...
IF I WERE MY NORMAL SIZE, MY WEIGHT WOULD SNAP THIS WIRE--BUT NOW, MY PHYSIQUE AGAIN WORKS TO MY ADVANTAGE!
BAM!
POP!
5

GREAT WORK, BAT-BABY! THAT KNOCKED ALL THE AIR -- AND FIGHT -- OUT OF THEM!
THWA-AWK
OOF!
OWW!
WITHIN AN HOUR, NEWSPAPERS HAPPILY HEADLINE THE VICTORY..
CITY NEWS
BAT-BABY DOES OKAY FOR A KID
GOTHAM GAZETTE
BAT-BABY OVERCOMES SIZE... AND CROOKS
BUT BACK HOME, THE FOLLOWING DAY, MORE TROUBLE AWAITS THE TINY CRIME-FIGHTER...
SIR, KATHY KANE IS COMING UP THE PATH!
OH-H... I FIGURED SHE'D BE COMING FOR A VISIT! OKAY, ALFRED -- YOU KNOW WHAT TO SAY WHEN YOU LET HER IN!
HELLO, ALFRED! IS BRUCE AT HOME?
YES, MISS KATHY! HE'S IN THE LIBRARY... YOU KNOW THE WAY!
AS KATHY GAILY WALKS DOWN THE CORRIDOR TO THE LIBRARY, SHE SEES...
SUNLIGHT STREAMING FROM THE LIBRARY -- THROWING THE SHADOWS OF BRUCE AND A GIRL! HE -- HE'S KISSING HER!
THAT PLAYBOY! THAT KISSING BUG! I'LL NEVER SET FOOT IN THIS HOUSE AGAIN!
6


AS KATHY EXITS INDIGNANTLY...
SHE FELL FOR IT! GOOD THING YOU HAD THAT CARDBOARD CUTOUT PREPARED IN ADVANCE!
SHE'S SO ANGRY, SHE'LL STAY AWAY FROM HERE FOR QUITE A WHILE! WHEN I'M ADULT SIZE AGAIN, I'LL EXPLAIN THAT THE "GIRL" SHE SAW WAS A COUSIN!
TROUBLE IS, YOU'LL NEVER BE ADULT SIZE AGAIN, UNLESS WE LOCATE GARTH WITH HIS MACHINE! HE AND NAILS MUST BE STAYING UNDERCOVER UNTIL THEY CAN SNEAK OUT OF THE COUNTRY!
BUT THEY WON'T LEAVE UNTIL THEY CAN SELL THEIR STOLEN GEMS TO A FENCE! THAT'S WHY THE POLICE ARE SECRETLY KEEPING TABS ON EVERY FENCE IN TOWN!
LATER, IN THE OFFICE OF POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON...
I JUST GOT A TIP THAT SWAP SMITH IS GETTING TOGETHER EVERY DOLLAR HE CAN PUT HIS HANDS ON!
HMM... A FENCE WOULD NEED PLENTY OF MONEY TO BUY THOSE STOLEN GEMS! THIS MEANS SWAP SMITH MIGHT BE GOING TO NAILS' HIDEOUT TO MAKE THE TRANS-ACTION!
AFTERWARD, IN A PLAYGROUND OPPOSITE THE SHOP THAT IS THE FRONT FOR SWAP SMITH'S ILLEGAL PURCHASES...
GARTH WOULD BE ON THE LOOKOUT FOR PLAINCLOTHES POLICE, ROBIN OR BAT-BABY... BUT HE WON'T SUSPECT JUST ANOTHER CHILD HERE!
BEFORE LONG...
AH... THERE GOES SMITH-- IN A HURRY! I'LL NEVER KEEP UP WITH THOSE LONG LEGS OF HIS!
SMITH
PAWN SHOP
SHORTLY...
GOOD THING I CACHED A PAIR OF SKATES IN THE PARK, FOR JUST SUCH AN EMERGENCY! AS SOON AS HE REACHES NAILS' HIDEOUT, I'LL NOTIFY ROBIN BY BELT-RADIO!

LATER, IN A STORAGE WAREHOUSE, AFTER THE TWO FLIP OPEN THE SKYLIGHT...
ROBIN!.. AND BAT-BABY!
THERE'S GARTH'S MACHINE!
YEAH--BUT YOU'LL NEVER GET A CHANCE TO USE IT!
UH-OH... THE NOISE BROUGHT NAILS AND HIS MEN FROM THE FLOOR BELOW!
AS THE GANGSTERS GET TO THEIR FEET AND SWIFTLY PURSUE THE PINT-SIZED CRIME-FIGHTER...
I'VE GOT TO DO EVERY-THING I CAN TO STALL THEM OFF--SO THAT BAT-BABY CAN GET TO THE MACHINE!
TWANG
INSTANTLY, BAT-BABY LEAPS ABOARD AN APPROPRIATE STEED...
NOW TO JUMP OFF AND TRY TO GET TO THE MACHINE!
8

DESPERATELY, ROBIN PRETENDS TO RETREAT BEFORE THE ONCOMING HOODLUMS--BUT, SUDDENLY ...
OOF!
UH!
OW!
THIS SHOULD HOLD THEM JUST LONG ENOUGH...
TENSE MOMENTS ELAPSE--TILL FINALLY...
ULP!... YOU TURNED ON THE RAY! Y-YOU'RE FULL-SIZE AGAIN!
YES--I DISCARDED MY BAT-BABY GARB AND SLIPPED ON THIS PLASTIC COSTUME I HAD FOLDED UP IN A PANTS POCKET!
IN ONE FELL SWOOP, TWO NORMAL-SIZED CRIME-FIGHTERS MOP UP THE GANG!
HOW'S IT FEEL TO BE BATMAN AGAIN?
GREAT, PARTNER--JUST GREAT!
9
THAT NIGHT, THE BAT-CAVE'S FAMED TROPHY ROOM HAS A NEW ADDITION...
JUST A REMINDER--OF A BRIEF CHILDHOOD!
The End
Your Passport to AMAZING ADVENTURES!
TALES OF THE UNEXPECTED
NOW ON SALE
HOUSE of MYSTERY
ON SALE MAR. 1ST
GREATEST ADVENTURE
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NOVELTY
COMPANY
GOOD MORNING. THE POLICE DEPARTMENT IS TAKING A SURVEY ON BURGLAR ALARMS! DO YOU HAVE ONE?
OH, YES. OUR INNER OFFICE HAS A WONDERFUL ALARM TO KEEP ANY INTRUDER OUT!
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SEE!

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